Communications of the European Neurological Society

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I. Presidential Message of Professor Gérard Said

The Presidential Message of Professor Gérard Said, President of the European Neurological Society, is given below.

Dear Friends,

After having contributed to the foundation of the ENS, i.e. with the enthusiastic collaboration of many friends, I had the honour to serve as Secretary General of the Society for over the past 20 years. I now have the distinction to serve as its President. The task of Secretary General was an enjoyable experience, and I am also pleased to see that the ENS has become a successful neurological society with a renowned official journal. We started the ENS from scratch, but were quickly duplicated by other groups. Our scientific programs, teaching courses, and support to young investigators, has inspired other neurological societies to take a similar direction. This is sometimes irritating, but it is also a token of our success in the advancement of neurology in Europe. The ENS must therefore remain a leader in clinical neuroscience in order to facilitate the integration of breakthrough research results in neurology.

During the course of the New Year I hope that the ENS will continue to pursue its goal of excellence in neurology in Europe by carrying out outstanding scientific and teaching programs during its Annual Meetings. For this reason, we intend to introduce a new teaching section on technical issues of importance to neurologists in order for our Society to expand its traditional role as an interface between neuroscience and clinical neurology. The global economic crisis may make it more difficult to finance large meetings in the future, nevertheless I hope that state-of-the-art research results in clinical neuroscience will continue to be presented at our Annual Meetings. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a successful New Year, that is a year full of personal achievements and progress in our field.

II. ENS Executive Committee Meeting in Paris

The ENS Executive Committee Meeting took place on 26–27 November 2010 in Paris. At this meeting Professor Ludwig Kappos, Basel, was elected Treasurer of the Society. He will assume office as of 1 June 2011. Professor Heinz Reichmann, Dresden, was voted President-Elect of the ENS. He will be designated as such during the 21st Meeting of the ENS in Lisbon, and inaugurated as President at the 22nd Meeting in Prague in 2012.

III. Recent ENS–EFNS Task Force Meeting

An ENS–EFNS Task Force Meeting took place during the 14th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies, September 25–28, 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. Goal of the conference was to further develop a strategy to merge the two societies into a unique European neurological association. The next Task Force Meeting will take place at the end of January 2011 in Basel.
IV. Preliminary Programme and Abstract Submission Now Online

The Preliminary Programme, and Abstract Submission for the Twenty-first Meeting of the European Neurological Society, which is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, 28–31 May 2011, is now available on the ENS Congress Website, as also as an e-book; refer to http://www.congrex.ch/ens2011.

For updated information concerning the scientific program, poster abstract submission, social events, travel and hotel accommodation, as well as other information, access the Congress Website at http://www.congrex.ch/ens2011.

V. Early Registration Fee for Lisbon Meeting

In order to profit from the early registration fee for the 21st Meeting of the ENS in Lisbon, register online at ENS Congress Website http://www.congrex.ch/ens2011 by 23 March 2011.

VI. Report on the Second European Board Examination in Neurology

The second European Board Examination in Neurology was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 September 2010 during the 14th Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS). The Board Examination was organised and carried out by the European Board of Neurology (EBN), which is a section of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS), refer to (http://www.uems.net). The UEMS is an organisation involved in the promotion of high standards of medical education in Europe, and is located in Brussels, Belgium.

The first examination of the EBN was conducted during the 19th ENS Meeting in Milan, Italy, 20–24 June 2009. Readers interested in the report on this initial examination, which was published in the October 2009 edition of the Journal of Neurology may refer to Communications of the European Neurological Society, 1. Report on the First European Board Examination in Neurology, J Neurol (2009) 256: 1788–1789.

Professor Wolfgang Grisold, Vienna, Past-President of the UEMS/EBN, is the author of the report given below on the second European Board Examination in Neurology carried out in Geneva. Readers requesting more information on this examination may contact Prof. Grisold at: (Wolfgang.Grisold@wienkav.at).

Professor Wolfgang Grisold

“The UEMS–EBN examination in neurology is organised according to the following 3 step procedure:

1. Application is only possible if the national medical society certifies that the candidate has completed his training in neurology and is board certified or board certification eligible, or is eligible for the exit exam in his/her country.

2. Completion of a written 120 Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) examination, with a passing limit of 75%.

3. Analysis of 4 oral case vignettes focusing on diagnosis, ancillary tests and therapy.

After accomplishing these examination tasks, the candidates can voluntarily give a short 5 min presentation about their work, or discuss an interesting case in order to receive additional evaluation points.

Of the 39 applications, 25 were eligible, and 16 completed the examination. 12 colleagues passed and received a diploma as a Fellow of the European Board of Neurology (http://www.uems-neuroboard.org). The candidates were from Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and United Kingdom, and for the first time Turkey participated. Awardees of the diploma are:

Kadriye Agan Yildirim (Turkey)
Timothy Counihan (Ireland)
Ruth Geraldes (Portugal)
Aysegul Gunduz (Turkey)
Pinar Kahraman Koytak (Turkey)
Baris Metin (Belgium)
Pedro J. Modrego (Spain)
Simona Petrescu (Rumania)
Manuel Seijo Martinez (Spain)
Gul Yalcin Cakmakli (Turkey)
Serpil Yildiz (Turkey)
Sreedharan Harikrishnan (United Kingdom).

Questions were provided by the scientific panels of the ENS and EFNS.